



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

God expects His Word to be preached! There is no substitute for preaching and teaching, despite what many say or do. **A**How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:14) Preaching/teaching is to create faith. **A**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. **@** (Rom. 10:17) No preaching/teaching the Word, no faith. The word of God is ~~n~~t meant to be dramatized as a play. It's not man's word or ideas. It is the Word of the living God, our creator and Savior. It is meant to be heeded and taken seriously. It is the sole, faith producing element from heaven! So what do some do with it? Make it funny, cute and jazz it up a little. God's trying to produce faith in people by preaching/teaching His Word. We try to draw people by making it appealing to the flesh. The result? No faith! Only shallow, external service.

Every time God gave something from His eternal throne, He did ~~n~~t want man to try to improve upon it or make it appealing in a human sense. It was simply His desires offered to man to help and save their souls. God spoke to Moses asking him to instruct the people on building an altar to Him, where the sacrifices were to take place. His warning thundered: **A**And if you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. **@** (Ex. 20:25) God knows man's potential in creating their own desires and God's holiness is lessened in the eyes of the created.

Preaching/teaching are not about entertaining, even though many want it. It's all about faith! Faith comes from hearing the words of Christ. Preaching/teaching is difficult. Paul reminded the preacher Timothy, **A**Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **@** (II Tim. 4:2) Preach it like it is and not how it is wanted! Sinners need to hear the awesome, powerful Word of God! It concerns me that many preach/teach do not have a message but an act. The Word of God does ~~n~~t have them by the heart. When the preacher is convicted in the heart by God's holy word, His message will not be a stage act or dramatist but real and genuine. People need to hear God and His message, not the preacher!

**A**For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void. **@** (I Cor. 1:17) Cleaver, entertaining preaching voids the cross and Paul was aware of that. To void the cross is to cancel it's power and reduce it as common in the eyes of man. Sure, many more people may come by entertaining but they won't be saved. **A**For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **@** (I Cor. 1:18) May our hearts have a sincere desire for God and His Word and a longing to want to hear His Word as it was intended. Think about it!!!

Brent